

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 191980

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TAGS:PFOR, US, UK

SUBJECT: NORTHERN IRELAND DRAFT PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF DRAFT PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT AS SENT
TO WH AND GIVEN BRITISH AND IRISH EMBASSY OFFICERS OCTOBER
12:

" THROUGHOUT OUR HISTORY, AMERICANS HAVE RIGHTLY
RECALLED THE CONTRIBUTIONS MEN AND WOMEN FROM MANY COUN-
TRIES HAVE MADE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE UNITED STATES.
AMONG THE GREATEST CONTRIBUTIONS HAVE BEEN THOSE OF THE
BRITISH AND IRISH PEOPLE, PROTESTANT AND CATHOLIC ALIKE,
AND WE ARE CONSCIOUS AND PROUD OF THE HERITAGE WITH WHICH
THEY HAVE ENRICHED OUR COUNTRY. WE HAVE CLOSE TIES OF
FRIENDSHIP WITH BOTH PARTS OF IRELAND, AND WITH GREAT
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BRITAIN.

THUS, IT IS NATURAL THAT AMERICANS ARE DEEPLY CON-
CERNED ABOUT THE CONTINUING CONFLICT AND VIOLENCE IN
NORTHERN IRELAND. WE KNOW THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF
THE PEOPLE THERE REJECT THE BOMB AND THE BULLET. THE
UNITED STATES WHOLEHEARTEDLY SUPPORTS PEACEFUL MEANS FOR

FINDING A JUST SOLUTION THAT INVOLVES BOTH PARTS OF THE COMMUNITY OF NORTHERN IRELAND AND PROTECTS HUMAN RIGHTS.

I BELIEVE THIS IS ALSO WHAT MOST OF THE PEOPLE IN NORTHERN IRELAND, AS WELL AS THE GOVERNMENTS OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND, SUPPORT. VIOLENCE CANNOT RESOLVE NORTHERN IRELAND'S PROBLEMS; IT INCREASES THEM, AND SOLVES NOTHING.

WE HOPE THAT ALL THOSE ENGAGED IN VIOLENCE WILL RENOUNCE THIS COURSE AND COMMIT THEMSELVES TO PEACEFUL PURSUIT OF LEGITIMATE GOALS. THE PATH OF RECONCILIATION, COOPERATION AND PEACE IS THE ONLY COURSE THAT CAN END THE HUMAN SUFFERING AND LEAD TO A BETTER FUTURE FOR ALL THE PEOPLE OF NORTHERN IRELAND. I ASK ALL AMERICANS TO REFRAIN FROM SUPPORTING, WITH FINANCIAL OR OTHER AID, ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY IN THIS VIOLENCE, THUS DELAYING THE DAY WHEN THE PEOPLE OF NORTHERN IRELAND CAN LIVE AND WORK TOGETHER IN HARMONY, FREE FROM FEAR. FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES WILL CONTINUE VIGOROUSLY TO APPREHEND AND PROSECUTE ANY WHO VIOLATE US LAWS IN THIS REGARD.

US GOVERNMENT POLICY ON THE NORTHERN IRELAND ISSUE HAS LONG BEEN AND REMAINS ONE OF IMPARTIALITY. WE SUPPORT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT IN NORTHERN

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IRELAND WHICH WILL COMMAND WIDESPREAD ACCEPTANCE THROUGHOUT BOTH PARTS OF THE COMMUNITY. HOWEVER, WE HAVE NO INTENTION OF TELLING THE PARTIES HOW THIS MIGHT BE ACHIEVED. THE ONLY PERMANENT SOLUTION WILL COME FROM THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE THERE. THERE ARE NO SOLUTIONS THAT OUTSIDERS CAN IMPOSE.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE PEOPLE OF NORTHERN IRELAND SHOULD KNOW THAT THEY HAVE OUR COMPLETE SUPPORT IN THEIR QUEST FOR A PEACEFUL AND JUST SOCIETY WHICH IS THE RIGHT OF ALL. IT IS A TRIBUTE TO NORTHERN IRELAND'S HARD-WORKING PEOPLE THAT THE AREA HAS CONTINUED TO ATTRACT INVESTMENT, DESPITE THE UNREST CAUSED BY A SMALL MINORITY. THIS IS TO BE WELCOMED, SINCE INVESTMENT AND OTHER PROGRAMS TO CREATE JOBS WILL ASSIST IN ENSURING A VIABLE ECONOMY AND COMBATTING UNEMPLOYMENT.

IT IS ALSO TRUE, HOWEVER, THAT A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT WOULD CONTRIBUTE IMMEASURABLY TO STABILITY IN NORTHERN IRELAND AND SO ENHANCE THE PROSPECTS FOR INCREASED INVESTMENT. IN THE EVENT OF SUCH A SETTLEMENT, THE US GOVERNMENT WOULD BE PREPARED TO JOIN WITH OTHERS TO

SEE HOW ADDITIONAL JOB-CREATING INVESTMENT COULD BE
ENCOURAGED, TO THE BENEFIT OF ALL THE PEOPLE OF NORTHERN
IRELAND.

I ADMIRE THE MANY TRUE FRIENDS OF NORTHERN IRELAND
IN THIS COUNTRY WHO SPEAK OUT FOR PEACE. EMOTIONS RUN
HIGH ON THIS SUBJECT AND THE EASIEST COURSE IS NOT TO
STAND UP FOR CONCILIATION. I PLACE MYSELF FIRMLY ON THE
SIDE OF THOSE WHO SEEK PEACE AND REJECT VIOLENCE IN
NORTHERN IRELAND." CHRISTOPHER

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